



What Do You Mean, a Spot?

A Qualitative Analysis of Patients' Reactions to Discussions With Their Physicians About Pulmonary Nodules

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD, MPH; Michael K. Gould, MD, FCCP; Steven Woloshin, MD; Lisa M. Schwartz, MD; and Jack A. Clark, PhD

e-Table 1. Information on recruitment of patients for focus groups

COMBINED INFORMATION FROM BOTH STUDY SITES

Patient identification method	Eligible patients identified	Excluded - provider refusal	Excluded - unable to contact	Excluded - patient refusal	Excluded - scheduling conflict	Included in focus groups
<i>Primary care source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	0	0	0	0	0	0
Search of problem list and/or CT reports	29	9	6	3	4	7
<i>Pulmonary source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	4	0	3	0	0	1
Search of pulmonary referrals and/or CT reports	50	5	9	12	10	14
<i>Total</i>	83	14	18	15	14	22

Online supplements are not copyedited prior to posting.



INFORMATION FROM DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK MEDICAL CENTER

Method of patient identification	Eligible patients identified	Excluded - provider refusal	Excluded - unable to contact	Excluded - patient refusal	Excluded - scheduling conflict	Included in focus groups
<i>Primary care source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	0	0	0	0	0	0
Search of problem list and/or CT reports	9	2	2	1	2	2
<i>Pulmonary source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	1	0	0	0	0	1
Search of pulmonary referrals and/or CT reports	26	0	3	9	6	8
<i>Total</i>	36	2	5	10	8	11

INFORMATION FROM BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

Patient identification method	Eligible patients identified	Excluded - provider refusal	Excluded - unable to contact	Excluded - patient refusal	Excluded - scheduling conflict	Included in focus groups
<i>Primary care source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	0	0	0	0	0	0
Search of problem list and/or CT reports	20	7	4	2	2	5
<i>Pulmonary source</i>						
Provider volunteered patient name	3	0	3	0	0	0
Search of pulmonary referrals and/or CT reports	24	5	6	3	4	6
<i>Total</i>	47	12	13	5	6	11

Online supplements are not copyedited prior to posting.



e-Table 2. Pre-specified topics and sample questions to be covered during focus groups

Doctor-Patient Communication

Tell me what happened when you first heard about the spot in your lung. What did your doctor say? What was that like for you?
Did your doctor talk to you about the different possibilities of what the spot in the lung might be? What did the doctor say about that?
Did your doctor mention cancer or give you a sense of how likely that was? Was that helpful?
Did your doctor talk about the next steps they would do to figure out what the spot in the lung is? Do you have a sense of what the plan is? Were you involved in deciding on the plan?
Are there things that your doctor did that you really liked or that you wish your doctor had done differently when they first told you about the spot in your lung?
If you have questions about the spot in your lung, do you feel like that is something you can talk to your doctor about?

Knowledge about nodule and its evaluation

What do you think the spot in the lung is?
How likely do you think it is that the spot in the lung will turn out to be cancer?
How long do you think you'll have to have CAT scans to check on the spot in the lung?
Do you ever think the spot in your lung is causing symptoms?

Experience of living with pulmonary nodule

When you first found out about the nodule, what was going through your head? Has that changed? How do you feel about the spot in your lung now?
What is the hardest thing about living with a spot in the lung?
How often does the spot in your lung cross your mind?
Are there things that bother you about the tests you've had to get done for the spot in the lung?
Have you told your loved ones about the spot in your lung? How did they react?